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## TWO VIEWS OF WAR PUT TO STUDENTS

William Bundy Optimistic—  
Goodwin Sees Blunders

By STEVEN V. ROBERTS  
Special to The New York Times

COLLEGE PARK, Md., Aug. 15—William P. Bundy, Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs, said today that the prospects for a "peaceful and secure Southeast Asia now appear brighter" than at any time in recent years.

His assessment was challenged by Richard N. Goodwin, a former adviser to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, as a "fairy tale that, like most fairy tales, is comforting and warming, but is not true."

The two men discussed American involvement in the Vietnam war before the 1,200 delegates gathered at the University of Maryland for the annual Congress of the National Student Association.

Most of the delegates appeared to share the judgment of Mr. Goodwin. Many of those who support current American policy in Asia expressed a deep distrust of the Johnson Administration.

Mr. Bundy, addressing a symposium, stressed the importance of the Vietnamese elections scheduled for Sept. 3.

"If the elections provide the Vietnamese people with a chance to express their opinions and take hold of their affairs," he said, "it could be the most hopeful change of all in recent years."

In response to a question Mr. Bundy acknowledged that the war in Vietnam and the power of the Vietcong in many areas made it impossible "to have anything like an effective election campaign."

He recounted a long history of decisions leading to the current American involvement in Vietnam.

He concluded that the United States was not a "prisoner of history," but that four American Presidents had made deliberate choices to maintain and increase American strength in the area.

### Concedes 'Misjudgments'

The assistant secretary said that at several points "costs were not foreseen and misjudgments were honestly made." One misjudgment, Mr. Bundy said, was the failure of the United States in 1961 to force the Diem regime to reform its oppressive policies.

Mr. Goodwin rejected the thesis that American involvement in Vietnam was deliberate.

"It was a blunder," he said, "a blunder of enormously costly and bloody dimensions." He added:

"If I were to tell you today that there was a guerrilla war going on in a small Asian country, and that you could send one-half million men, and spend billions of dollars, and suffer thousands of casualties, and still have no hope of winning, could anyone possibly choose that course?"

The war, Mr. Goodwin continued, "has drained the creative moral energies of the country away from such goals as civil rights." Moreover he said, "it has eroded public confidence in the government."

Most of the delegates seemed dubious when Mr. Bundy said that the United States had done everything possible to bring about peace in Southeast Asia.

Steve Schwartz, a graduate student at the University of Michigan, said: "How can you believe them when they talk about peace and send in 45,000 more troops and move the war closer to the border?"

"I just don't believe the President," said Ricki Radlo, a senior at Radcliffe. "Officers I know in Vietnam say the situation is much worse than is ever reported. It is a matter of trust. I think a lot of young people lack any real faith in the people making the decisions."

Although this distrust of the Administration appears to run deep among the delegates, many expressed support for the Vietnam War.